

THE 23RD ANNUAL  
RALEIGH MEDAL OF ARTS







November 14, 2007

Dear Friends of the Arts:

I am delighted to welcome you to the 23rd Annual Medal of Arts Ceremony. The City of Raleigh Arts Commission, celebrating 30 years fostering the arts, established this Medal of Arts program in 1984 and has been annually recognizing extraordinary achievement in the arts since that time.

Tonight the city proudly honors the North Carolina Symphony, North Carolina Theatre,

Rory Parnell, Melissa Podcasy, Progress Energy and The Raleigh Ringers. These Raleigh Medal of Arts recipients share the same dedication to community through participation in and support of artistic excellence. Together, the six awards recipients have helped shape and elevate the cultural life of Raleigh through their unique and special contributions.

Recently, I had the opportunity to celebrate Raleigh Arts Day with 45 city cultural organizations. We are truly blessed to have so many talented groups offering a diversity of exciting programs and events to area citizens. Raleigh, the "City of Oaks," is without question also the "City of the Arts."

I thank each of you for your support of the arts, and for joining the Arts Commission tonight in their Annual Medal of Arts Program. These six remarkable artists and organizations have truly made a difference in the quality of life of our city's residents and Raleigh is a better place for their calling it home.

Sincerely,

Charles Meeker  
Mayor, City of Raleigh



# The 23rd Annual Raleigh Medal of Arts Awards Ceremony

**Wednesday, November 14, 2007**

Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Fletcher Opera Theater

**Recognition**

Past Medal of Arts Recipients

**Welcome**

North Carolina First Lady Mary P. Easley

**Opening Remarks**

Master of Ceremonies William Ivey Long

**Award Presentation**

Melissa Podcasy, Introduction by Robert Weiss

**Performance & Award Presentation**

The Raleigh Ringers, Introduction by Waltie Rasulala  
Accepting Award: David M. Harris, Artistic Director

**Remarks**

Tift Merritt

**Award Presentation**

Rory Parnell, Introduction by Sarah Powers

**Performance & Award Presentation**

North Carolina Symphony, Introduction by David Hartman  
Performance by Anita Burroughs-Price, Symphony Harpist  
Accepting Award: David Chambless Worters, President & CEO

**Award Presentation**

Progress Energy, Introduction by Mayor Charles Meeker  
Accepting Award: William D. Johnson, Chairman, President & CEO

**Performance & Award Presentation**

North Carolina Theatre, Introduction by David Crabtree  
Performance from *The Secret Garden* by NCT  
Accepting Award: William Jones, Executive Director/Producer

**Remarks**

June Guralnick, Executive Director, Raleigh Arts Commission  
Lawrence E. Wray, Assistant City Manager

**Closing**

William Ivey Long

**RECEPTION FOLLOWS CEREMONY**

*Special thanks to City of Raleigh Arts Commissioners and award hosts Brian Starkey and Laura Raynor*

# *Master of Ceremonies*



William Ivey Long

William Ivey Long is a North Carolina native and five-time Tony Award winning costume designer. During his 32-year career, he has designed costumes for more than 50 Broadway productions, including *The Producers*, *Hairspray*, *Nine*, *Crazy for You*, *Grey Gardens* and currently the Broadway premiere of *Young Frankenstein*. In 2000 Long was chosen by the National Theatre Conference as its "Person of the Year" and was honored with the "Legend of Fashion" Award by the Art Institute of Chicago in 2003. Most recently he was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in January of 2006.

## *Special Presenters*



North Carolina First Lady  
Mary P. Easley

As North Carolina's First Lady, Mary P. Easley travels throughout North Carolina in support of her three main initiatives: to prevent and reduce underage drinking, assist military families, and promote and support the arts. Mrs. Easley serves as honorary chair of the North Carolina Museum of Art, working to bring world-renowned exhibitions to the museum. She also actively supports the Carolina Ballet, North Carolina Symphony and American Dance Festival in Durham.



Tift Merritt

Tift Merritt began her career as a singer-songwriter and recording artist in Raleigh and Chapel Hill. Her 2002 debut album, *Bramble Rose*, received high praise, including its selection by Time magazine as one of the top 10 CDs of the year. Publishing in the rock, country and soul genres, Ms. Merritt released her second album, *Tambourine*, in 2005, which was nominated for a Grammy award. Since then, she has released *Home is Loud* and completed work on her newest album, *Another Country*, which will be released in March 2008.

# *North Carolina Symphony*

The North Carolina Symphony was organized in 1932 under the direction of Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship recipient and composer Lamar Stringfield. From its beginnings as a WPA project in the 1930s, the Symphony became the first orchestra to receive state funding on a continuous basis in the 1940s. Under the 33-year leadership of Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Swalin, the Symphony developed its grassroots focus of taking the orchestra to North Carolinians. That tradition has continued every year since 1943 when the state legislature passed the "Horn Tootin' Bill."



Now more than 75 years since its start, the North Carolina Symphony is a full-time, professional orchestra with 68 members under the artistic leadership of Music Director Grant Llewellyn. The Symphony performs regularly in its home venue of Meymandi Concert Hall in the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, and has released five recordings. Its most recent recording, *Sketches 2004-05*, featured *Sketches from Pinehurst* by Terry Mizesko, which was written in honor of the U.S. Open's 2005 return to Pinehurst.

As the 31st largest orchestra in the nation, the Symphony is singularly unique in its commitment to statewide service and its dedication to the musical education of North Carolina's children. Each year, the orchestra travels approximately 14,000 miles throughout the state, giving nearly 250,000 people, including more than 50,000 children, the opportunity to hear a live orchestral performance.



"As a child in Greensboro, I recall attending a N.C. Symphony outreach educational concert, and I remember how **this experience deeply changed my view of serious music**. Its artistic excellence is **inspiring** to audiences of all levels of musical experience and is part of the rapidly growing sophistication of this community."

Randolph Foy

*Music Director, Raleigh Civic Symphony and Chamber Orchestra  
Associate Director, Department of Music,  
North Carolina State University*



"The Symphony not only provides inspiring performances of our times and times past, but also is **a wonderful attraction** for the city of Raleigh. Its many talented musicians have made a major difference in and around Raleigh, sharing their special gifts and the joy of music. Through their travel program, classical and **symphonic music is available for young and old throughout the state**. As a child in rural, eastern North Carolina, **I remember well the excitement and joy** I felt when I saw the Symphony bus arrive in Duplin County."

Betty Ray McCain

*Former Secretary, North  
Carolina Department of  
Cultural Resources*



# *North Carolina Theatre*

North Carolina Theatre (NCT) is a not-for-profit, professional regional theatre that produces memorable, high-quality Broadway musicals. Founded by DeAnn Jones in 1984, NCT blends seasoned Broadway performers with the best regional talent at Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium.

Through North Carolina Theatre productions, local artists, musicians and theatre professionals in the community are given the opportunity to experiment, learn and grow alongside talented Broadway actors, designers and directors. Broadway stars performing on NCT's stage include Lou Diamond Phillips, Paul Sorvino, Debby Boone, Loretta Swit, and Deborah Gibson. The theatre's *Kids on Broadway* education initiative provides exceptional training, performing and outreach programs to young actors and audiences.

North Carolina Theatre is committed to enhancing the theatre-going experience of its patrons from the moment a ticket is purchased to the final standing ovation. The year 2008 marks the 25th anniversary season of NCT and the launch of its "new works" program. The theatre is proud to contribute to the cultural vitality of the community by providing broad access to the arts and preserving the unique American art form of musical theatre.





"Raleigh is so fortunate to have North Carolina Theatre. It **strengthens our region's cultural vitality** and cultivates musical theatre appreciation by **producing outstanding professional Broadway musicals** and **developing the next generation of artists** through youth education, performance and outreach programs."

Jack Finley

Partner, Grant Thornton  
NCT Board President

"As a local performer, I have relished the opportunity to 'tread the boards' with fellow actors from around the country when I've performed a role for North Carolina Theatre. It has refortified my belief in the quality of our local talent and reaffirmed my assertion that we have extraordinary talent right here at home ... **talent that can hold its own** with Broadway performers."

Ira David Wood III

Executive Director,  
Theatre In The Park

## *Rory Parnell*

Rory Parnell co-owns The Collectors Gallery in Raleigh's City Market and the Long View Gallery in Moore Square. She is also well known for her work with the Raleigh Contemporary Gallery. As a gallery owner, arts advocate and patron for more than 20 years, Ms. Parnell has served on numerous non-profit boards and visual arts panels. She is a long-time supporter and advocate for Visual Art Exchange and is the current board chair for the non-profit gallery and association.

A firm commitment to downtown Raleigh is apparent in Ms. Parnell's career history. In the early 1990s, she worked with the directors of Artspace, Contemporary Art Museum, Visual Art Exchange, Peden Gallery II, Cedar Creek Pottery and Nan Hutchins of York Properties, to form the Moore Square Art District and create the First Friday gallery walk. Since that time, First Friday has become a popular cultural event, reaching all of Raleigh's downtown neighborhoods.

Ms. Parnell continues to devote her time, energy, resources and talent to the local arts community. In spring 2008, she will open a third gallery located in downtown Raleigh on Fayetteville Street in the historic Mahler Building.





“ Rory has a **profound commitment to the arts**, to Raleigh and to the artists she represents.

Rory not only nurtures and supports artists individually, but she also **makes important contributions to many arts organizations in the community** through her time, her knowledge and resources. She works cooperatively with other galleries, arts organizations and businesses **to create and enhance** a vigorous downtown Raleigh. **Her unwavering devotion** to the extended Raleigh art community demonstrates her compassion, perseverance and strong character. ”

Marty Baird

*Visual Artist*

“ Rory’s downtown galleries have **represented contemporary artists from North Carolina** and beyond for more than 20 years. She consistently **encourages artists** to exhibit challenging work and installations, which cultivates their growth as artists and **inspires the emerging artists in the community.** ”

Sarah Powers

*Executive Director, Visual Art Exchange*

## Melissa Podcasy

Melissa Podcasy is a founding member of Carolina Ballet. As a former principal dancer with Pennsylvania Ballet and Basel Ballet in Switzerland, Ms. Podcasy has appeared as a guest artist with New York City Ballet, has danced nationally and internationally with Stars of American Ballet, and was invited to tour with Principal Dancers of New York City Ballet through Columbia Artists Management.

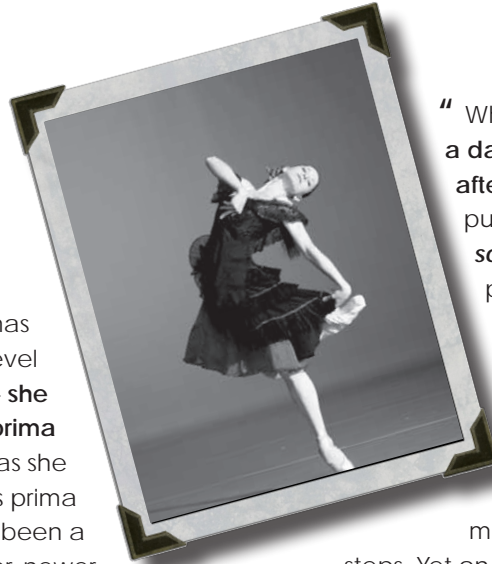


Her talent and versatility have enabled her to work with and create roles for such choreographers as Christopher Wheeldon, William Forsythe, Damian Woetzel and Richard Tanner. She has collaborated with Robert Weiss and Lynne Taylor-Corbett throughout her career, performing in more than 30 of their creations. Out of the 60 works Carolina Ballet has created in the past nine seasons, Ms. Podcasy has originated numerous roles. Her Balanchine repertoire consists of more than 25 ballets. She has performed works by Jose Limon, Antony Tudor and Peter Martins, and she has danced the principal ballerina roles in 10 full-length ballets including *Giselle*, John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*, Heinz Spoerli's *La Fille Mal Garde*, Peter Martin's *La Sylphide* and Robert Weiss' *Winter Dreams*.

Over the last several years, Ms. Podcasy has called upon her vast experience and started to work with the next generation of dancers. Her coaching of up-and-coming dance soloists and principal women in the company is another way Ms. Podcasy contributes to the vitality of the artistic community.

" Melissa's presence has greatly enhanced the level of artistry in the Triangle — **she is truly a world class prima ballerina**. Not only has she led Carolina Ballet as its prima ballerina, but she has been a mentor for the younger, newer dancers in the company. **She has set the standard for excellence very high**, serving as a marvelous example. Raleigh is so fortunate to have Melissa Podcasy in its midst to bring the arts scene to the level of **beauty and grace that she exudes.** "

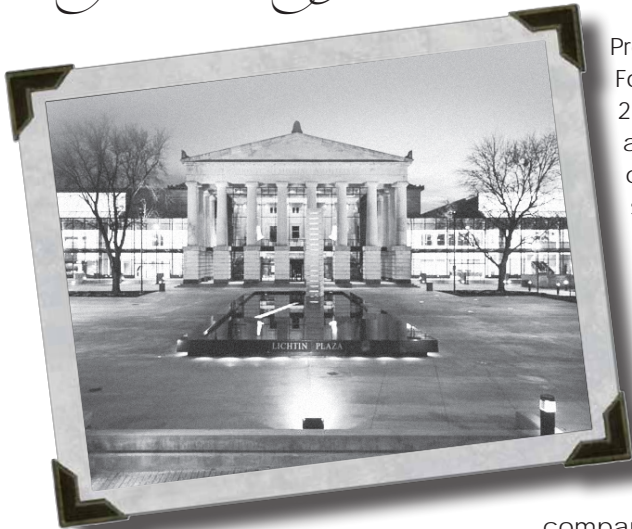
Robert Weiss  
*Artistic Director, Carolina Ballet*



" When you're fortunate, **you witness a dancer whose image lingers long after the curtain falls**, one whose pure artistry is **so extraordinary, so inspired**, that she seems possessed, taken over by the spirit gods. Melissa Podcasy is **the personification of the consummate artist**. She puts enormous preparation into each role, writing a script in her head as she goes, matching internal dialogue to steps. Yet on stage, all that preparation melts away and what's left is the essence. **She's like a well-developed character in a novel that you can't put down.** Or the author who invents complex characters, then steps out of the way and lets the characters tell their own story. "

Linda Belans  
*Dance Writer*

# *Progress Energy*



Progress Energy, headquartered in Raleigh, is a Fortune 250 energy company with more than 21,000 megawatts of generation capacity and \$10 billion in annual revenues. The company includes two major utilities that serve more than 3.1 million customers in the Carolinas and Florida.

Progress Energy takes seriously its responsibility to foster economic development and improve the vitality of the communities where the company's employees and customers live. Since becoming Progress Energy in 2000, (formerly Carolina Power & Light) the

company has invested over \$70 million in its local communities through grant programs, including more than \$12 million to the arts. These art investments fund major art exhibits, local arts festivals, arts education in public schools, symphonies, and local theatre groups.

In addition to grants, Progress Energy has demonstrated its long-standing commitment to the arts by naming two performing arts centers in its headquarters cities of Raleigh and St. Petersburg (Florida). The company firmly believes supporting the arts strengthens communities and plays a vital role in enriching the overall regional economy.



" Whether it has been **philanthropic support**, board membership from their executives or a resource for networking, Progress Energy has **supported Carolina Ballet in every possible way**. They have been the ***epitome of a true corporate partner***, and not just for the Ballet but for nearly every arts group in Raleigh. "

Lisa Jones

*Executive Director, Carolina Ballet*



" Progress Energy's association with First Night Raleigh and the Artsposure spring festival communicates to our audiences a **commitment to quality programming....** The Raleigh arts community is equally fortunate that Progress Energy ***instills in its employees a strong belief in improving the communities*** in which they live and work and that they seek out opportunities to do so. Artsposure has **benefited tremendously from the involvement of Progress Energy employees** on the board of directors and as ***essential volunteers at its festivals.*** "

Michael Lowder

*Executive Director, Artsposure*

# *The Raleigh Ringers*

The Raleigh Ringers are an internationally acclaimed, advanced community handbell ensemble. Its members are auditioned musicians who perform on the most extensive collection of bells owned by any handbell ensemble in the world — six unique sets totaling more than 360 individual pieces of equipment. Since its founding in 1990, The Raleigh Ringers have dazzled concert audiences with unique interpretations of sacred, secular and popular music, including famous rock 'n roll tunes arranged for bells.

The ensemble has commissioned more than 90 arrangements and compositions for handbells. Several of these commissioned pieces are included in The Raleigh Ringers series, an ongoing set of compositions published in 1996 and suitable for performance by advanced handbell groups. The ensemble has been featured also on demonstration recordings for leading publishers of new handbell music.



Under the direction of David M. Harris, The Raleigh Ringers have released four CDs and a holiday DVD, *One Winter Evening at Meymandi*. The DVD was later turned into two, one-hour concert specials and broadcast on more than 250 public television stations in 45 states. The group has performed nationally and internationally, including live performances on various syndicated radio shows. The Raleigh Ringers' annual holiday and spring concerts at Meymandi Concert Hall are a favorite tradition for music lovers throughout the state.

" The Raleigh Ringers excel in **musicianship, professionalism and showmanship** in the unique art of handbell ringing and has taken this art form onto concert stages, television and radio broadcasts across the United States, serving as **an ambassador for the excellence of Raleigh's cultural arts.** "

Waltye Rasulala  
*1986 Medal of Arts Recipient*



" The Raleigh Ringers have redefined the words "handbell choir" and created a musical offering that ***transcends the traditional handbell boundaries***. The group demonstrates a degree of excellence on par with **only the best professional music ensemble I have ever experienced.** "

Fred Gramann  
*Director of Music, American Church in Paris*

# Performers

## The Raleigh Ringers

Performing *Wizards in Winter* as arranged by Hart Morris.

## Anita Burroughs-Price

Anita Burroughs-Price has been harpist for the North Carolina Symphony since 1986. A graduate of Furman University, Yale School of Music, and the Royal College of Music, she is also harp instructor at Furman and maintains an active private studio. Her solo performances have taken her to Brighton Palace in England, Cremona, Italy, and frequently to Europe. She regularly volunteers in clinics, Red Cross shelters, and at the bedside of the terminally ill. Her humanitarian work has been featured in local and national media, including the Hallmark Channel. Her CD, *Healing Touch*, won the 2006 Excellence in Media Silver Angel Award and raised over \$15,000 for the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Interact, and New Orleans Musicians. In 1999, she was awarded a Raleigh Medal of Arts for her "musical excellence and humanitarian service."

## North Carolina Theatre

Performing a selection from *The Secret Garden*.



*Past Medal of Arts Recipients*

**1984**

Geraldine Cate  
Willie Jordan-Williams  
John Lambert  
James A. McLean  
Northern Telecom Inc.  
Robert Petters  
Ira David Wood III  
Anna Wooten-Hawkins

**1985**

Artsposure  
Henry Bowers  
Capitol Broadcasting Co.  
James M. Marshall  
Beth Cummings Paschal  
George M. Stephens

**1986**

Cablevision of Raleigh  
DeAnn Jones  
Paul Montgomery  
Waltie Rasulala  
Addison Reed  
Theatre In The Park

**1987**

Horace Caple  
Jo Cresimore  
Friends of the College  
Phyllis Garriss  
Peggy Hoffman  
Lemma Mackie  
Ira David Wood III

**1988**

Abram Kanoff  
Suzanne Newton  
Raleigh Fine Arts Society  
Literary Contest  
Henry Vermillion  
J. Perry Watson  
David Witherspoon  
Peyton Woodson III

**1989**

Arts Together  
Douglas Haas Bennett  
Sally Buckner  
Rebecca Gill  
Betty Kovach  
James E. Longmire  
Ben F. Williams  
Albert D. Wolfheimer

**1990**

Betsy Blair  
Paul B. Conway  
James A. Crawford  
Margot Richter  
Thomas E. Sibley  
Raleigh Little Theatre  
Raleigh Symphony Orchestra

**1991**

Joel Adams  
Artspace  
Charlotte Brown  
Joe Cox  
Dick Gable  
Raleigh Chamber Music Guild  
Raleigh Music Club Scholarships  
Raleigh Oratorio Society  
Ann Smith  
Dick Snavelly  
WCPE

**1992**

George Bireline  
Center Stage at NCSU  
Stewart Theatre  
The Raleigh Boychoir  
Bob Rankin  
Nona Short  
The Woman's Club of  
Raleigh Arts Festival

**1993**

Gerald Barrax  
City Gallery of Contemporary Art  
James Goodman  
Mary Anne K. Jenkins  
Bill Tilton  
Inge Witt

**1994**

McCrae Hardy  
John McIlwee  
Raleigh Fine Arts Society

*Congratulations  
to all past  
medal winners!*

**1995**

The Crafts Center  
Elizabeth Grimes Droessler  
The Fletcher School of  
Performing Arts  
Ward Purrington

**1996**

Bonnie Brooks  
City Gallery of  
Contemporary Art  
Kaye Gibbons  
Raleigh Ensemble Players  
Mary Ann Scherr  
Dr. Alfred E. Sturgis  
Don Wilder

**1997**

NC Museum of Art  
Visual Art Exchange  
Gerhardt Zimmermann

**1998**

Community Music School  
Elaine A. Lorber  
Meredith College  
Martha N. Zaytoun

**1999**

Arts Access  
Anita Burroughs-Price  
Thomas H. Sayre

**2000**

Robin Harris  
K.D. Kennedy  
Dr. Assad Meymandi

**2001**

William Brown

**2002**

Even Exchange Dance Theatre  
Hugh Partridge  
Lawrence Wheeler

**2003**

Lope Max Diaz  
Lanette Lind  
Thomas McGuire  
Melissa Peden

**2004**

Lee Hansley  
Hillyer Community Chorus  
Robert Weiss  
NC Museum of Art Docents  
Jane Elizabeth Williamson Teague

**2005**

Karen Edwards  
Dr. Randolph Foy  
Anne Roberts Packer



# *Declaration of Raleigh Arts*

We, the representatives of the cultural organizations of the Capital City of the State of North Carolina, hold these truths to be self-evident, that all arts are created equal, that they are endowed by their creators with certain unalienable rights, that among these are the right to have Beauty, Freedom of Expression and the Pursuit of Happiness grace the lives of Raleigh residents.

We, the representatives of the cultural organizations of the Capital City of the State of North Carolina, hereby declare that the Arts rank with Science, Industry and Law as historic pillars of Society and mutually pledge to each other and to the citizens of Raleigh our commitment to building a world-class City of the Arts.

We, the representatives of the cultural organizations of the Capital City of the State of North Carolina, offer our shared belief that the Arts are important to our community and invite the public to engage in an ongoing dialogue about how we may embrace and integrate creative opportunities in the lives of all the citizens of this great city.

THEREFORE ...

We, the representatives of the cultural organizations of the Capital City of the State of North Carolina, in support of this pledge of allegiance to the Arts, do hereby proclaim, in one unified voice, that **we believe the Arts in Raleigh:**

**ENTERTAIN** our community by offering exciting performances, festivals, readings, exhibitions and arts-related events for the public's enjoyment;

**EDUCATE** our community by fostering a deeper understanding of what it means to be human;

**ENRICH** our community by fueling economic growth and attracting tourists and new business to the area;



**EMBOLDEN** our community by establishing a dynamic environment for artists to create, learn and grow;

**ELEVATE** our community by inspiring meaningful arts experiences that encourage connection among individuals, groups and the city at large;

**ENLIGHTEN** our community by embracing a multitude of opinions and viewpoints, the cornerstones of a democratic society;

**ENLIVEN** our community by providing culturally diverse experiences for residents and visitors;

**ENGAGE** our community by developing cultural opportunities for personal growth and strengthened family bonds;

**ENHANCE** our community by increasing understanding, appreciation and communication among global citizens;

**ENERGIZE** our community by shaping a positive city identity in the local, regional, national and international arenas; and

**ENVISION** our community by supporting the building of a livable and attractive city, and a revitalized downtown.

We, the representatives of the cultural organizations of the Capital City of the State of North Carolina, by the authority vested in us to create and support the Arts in Raleigh, and in celebration of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission's 30 years fostering the arts, do hereby proudly sign the Raleigh Arts Declaration, this 11th day of October, 2007.

*The Declaration of Raleigh Arts was signed by 45 Raleigh cultural organizations on October 11, 2007, and is currently on display at the Miriam Preston Block Gallery in the Municipal Building.*

# *Special Thanks*

## **Awards Ceremony**

John McIlwee  
Brian Williams  
Elizabeth Grimes-Droessler  
William Brown  
Mette Schladweiler  
Maggie Barton  
Waltie Rasulala  
Laura Raynor  
Joyce Watkins King  
Lou Johanson

*Creative Director*  
*Video Director*  
*Technical Director*  
*Technical Support*  
*Stage Manager*  
*Assistant Stage Manager*  
*Show Advisor*  
*Reception Advisor*  
*Reception Decor*  
*Reception Decor*

## **Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts Staff**

Paul Marsland  
Joe Medlin  
Kendra Giles  
Allen Puryear  
Russell Denton  
Holly Jacques

*Production Supervisor*  
*Production Supervisor*  
*Centerplate Catering*  
*Event Coordinator*  
*Maintenance Supervisor*  
*Booking Coordinator*

## **Additional Thanks**

Peace Street Camera  
JW Photo Labs  
The Eclectic Gardener  
John Gordon  
NCSU Theatre Students  
Stephen Vannortwick  
Teresa Pigeon  
Diane Smith  
Meghan Gregory

## **Special Thanks**

To all the evening's presenters,  
performers, and volunteers!



# *Credits and Acknowledgments*

## **Mayor Charles Meeker**

### **City Council**

Tommy Craven  
Thomas Crowder  
Philip Isley  
Joyce Kekas  
Russ Stephenson  
Jessie Taliaferro  
James West

### **City of Raleigh Arts Commissioners**

Brian Starkey, Chair  
Laura Raynor, Vice Chair  
Jessie Cannon  
Edna Crouse  
Genevieve Farmer  
Martin Green  
Charlene Harless  
Lou Johanson  
Roger Kosak  
Elizabeth Purrington  
Lionel Randolph  
Karen Ridout  
Brian Shawcroft  
Ann Tharrington  
Lee Tripi  
Beth Yerxa

## **Medal of Arts Committee**

Edna Crouse  
Lou Johanson  
Joyce Watkins King  
John McIlwee  
Waltye Rasulala  
Laura Raynor

## **Staff**

June Guralnick  
Carol Mallette  
Belva Parker  
Tamar Harris-Warren  
Marie Smith  
Javier Osequera  
Alison Weaver

*Executive Director*  
*Administrative Assistant*  
*Program Coordinator*  
*MBAE Coordinator*  
*Database Assistant*  
*Graphic Designer*  
*Artsbeat / Guest Writer*

## **Department**

Lawrence E. Wray

*Assistant City Manager*  
*Administration*

## **City of Raleigh Arts Commission**

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Raleigh, NC 27602  
(919) 890-3610  
[www.raleighnc.gov/arts](http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts)

# City of Raleigh Arts Commission

## 30 Years Fostering the Arts

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission was established in 1977 and proudly holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council for the past three decades, the Commission is dedicated to the ongoing goal of connecting people to the arts and building a vital and ever-expanding creative community for Capital City residents and artists.

The Arts Commission, primarily funded by City Council, directly allocates the majority of its funds to arts organizations based in Raleigh. Grants to 27 organizations were approved for 2007-2008; these grants help organizations present hundreds of diverse performances, festivals and events. Over the past 20 years, the Arts Commission has allocated over \$16 million dollars to cultural groups in Raleigh.

The Commission uses the remainder of its funds to support local arts projects and to promote the arts in Raleigh. Activities include public art projects such as Red Wolf Ramble, Art-in-the-Park sculptures (most recently *Redbird* in Fletcher Park and *Glimpses of The Promised Land* in Chavis Park) and the Commission's current project, *Art-On-The-Move* (art featured on the sides of city buses); the annual Raleigh Medal of Arts Awards, which recognize extraordinary artistic achievement and support by individuals, businesses and organizations in our city; Miriam Block Gallery Municipal Building Arts Exhibition Series, showcasing the work of local artists; art purchases for the city's permanent collection; and the dissemination of information on arts activities and issues through the quarterly Artsbeat newsletter and other publications.

A host of anniversary events have taken place throughout 2007 to celebrate the Commission's past work and inspire continued growth and appreciation of the arts in Raleigh. A special 30th anniversary committee has also been formed, comprised of cultural, business and community leaders, to create an Action Plan for Raleigh Arts, which will be unveiled next year. We invite you to join us in the coming months as we work to transform the "City of Oaks" into the "City of the Arts"!



30 YEARS FOSTERING THE ARTS